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Dothistroma needle blight in natural forests of Corsican pine in La Sila Massif, Calabria, Italy

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Original Citation:

Dothistroma needle blight in natural forests of Corsican pine in La Sila Massif, Calabria, Italy / Ghelardini, Luisa; Loria, Francesco; Aglietti, Chiara; Marchi, Guido; Capretti, Paolo. - ELETTRONICO. - (2017), pp. 52-52. (Intervento presentato al convegno Forest Insects and Pathogens in a Changing Environment: Ecology, Monitoring & Genetics Joint Meeting of IUFRO WPs 7.03.05 "Ecology and management of bark and wood boring insects" 7.03.10 "Methodology of forest insect and disease survey" tenutosi a

Availability:

This version is available at: 2158/1096626 since: 2017-10-06T11:35:35Z

Publisher:

IUFRO

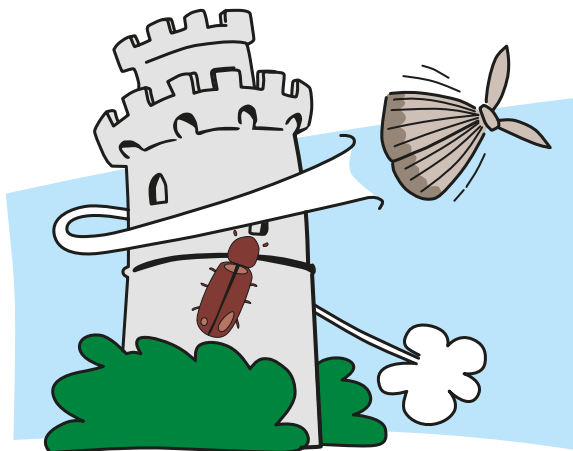
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**Forest Insects and Pathogens
in a Changing Environment:
Ecology, Monitoring & Genetics**

Joint Meeting of IUFRO WPs

7.03.05 "Ecology and management of bark and wood boring insects"

7.03.10 "Methodology of forest insect and disease survey"

**11-15 SEPTEMBER 2017
THESSALONIKI • GREECE**

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Technical Chamber of Greece / Section of Central Macedonia
Thessaloniki, Greece

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Table of Contents

Sponsors Acknowledgements	4
Welcome Address	5
Programme Overview	7
Detailed Programme	9
Committees	19
Organizing and Scientific Committee	19
Keynote Speakers	20
About Forest Research Institute (FRI)	21
Meeting Secretariat	21
Useful Information	22
Field Trip	24
Cultural Programme	25
Live, Learn & Love Thessaloniki	28
Thessaloniki Map	29
Oral Presentations	31
Poster Presentations	93
Index	113

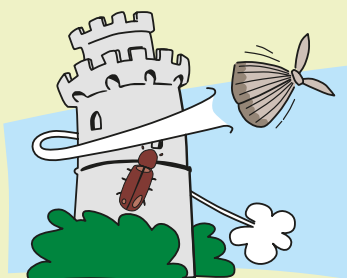
Tuesday, 12 September 2017 - Wednesday, 13 September 2017

15:00 - 15:15	PHENOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE PINE PROCESSIONARY MOTH: POSSIBLE CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND UP-AND-COMING MONITORING METHODS Jérôme Rousselet - INRA – URZF, France
15:15 - 15:30	WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF TRYPODENDRON LAEVE IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS (ROMANIA) Duduman Mihai-Leonard - Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava, Forestry Faculty, Romania
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:15	Meeting Session 7: International impact of forest pests and pathogens Moderators: Andrew Liebhold , Rudolf Wegensteiner
16:00 - 16:15	CRYPHONECTRIA PARASITICA IN AZERBAIJAN: CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION Dilzara N. Aghayeva - Institute of Botany, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan
16:15 - 16:30	OUTBREAK DYNAMICS OF THE WOODWASP SIREX NOCTILIO: UNRAVELLING DRIVERS THAT MAY HELP IMPROVE PEST MANAGEMENT IN PINE PLANTATIONS Juan C. Corley - CONICET/INTA, Argentina
16:30 - 16:45	EXAMINING THE ROLE OF AGRILUS BIGUTTATUS IN ACUTE OAK DECLINE THROUGH STUDIES ON WOUND CLOSURE AND DENDROCHRONOLOGY Katy Reed - Forest Research and Harper Adams University, United Kingdom
16:45 - 17:00	DOTHISTROMA NEEDLE BLIGHT IN NATURAL FORESTS OF CORSICAN PINE IN LA SILA MASSIF, CALABRIA, ITALY Luisa Ghelardini - Department of Agrifood Production and Environmental Sciences, University of Florence, Italy
17:00 - 17:15	A DNA BARCODE REFERENCE LIBRARY OF LEAF MINING INSECTS COLONIZING WOODY PLANTS FOR FAST AND ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF FOREST PESTS IN ASIAN RUSSIA Natalia Kirichenko - Sukachev Institute of Forest SB RAS, Federal Research Center "Krasnoyarsk Science Center SB RAS", Russia
17:30 - 18:15	Business Meeting

Wednesday, 13 September 2017 – Field Trip

08:30 "Meet the Greek Gods", Excursion in Mount Olympus

Oral Presentations



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DOTHISTROMA NEEDLE BLIGHT IN NATURAL FORESTS OF CORSICAN PINE IN LA SILA MASSIF, CALABRIA, ITALY

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KEYWORDS: Emerging forest disease, *Pinus nigra laricio*, quarantine fungal pathogens, red band needle blight.

Widespread crown damages such as discoloration, crown transparency, and reduction of needle size were observed in spring 2017 in Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra laricio*) stands in La Sila Massif, Calabria, Italy. Yellow to red bands surrounding brown-black fruiting bodies were present on needles. A fungus with morphological characters resembling those of *Dothistroma* spp. was isolated by plating conidial suspensions onto MEA. Sequencing of the ITS gene region and of the Elongation Factor1 gene confirmed that the isolates belong to *Dothistroma septosporum*, a listed quarantine organism in Europe that is the causal agent of Red Band Needle Blight. The pathogen had been reported in 1970 in Italy on introduced *Pinus radiata* trees about 100 km apart from the current location. The present report is instead on native Corsican pine, which is the most common conifer species in the area and a host that has proved to be extremely susceptible to red band needle blight. Susceptible host species and conducive climatic conditions in the area, which is characterized by frequent rainfall, high relative humidity and increasingly mild temperature, might favor a severe disease outbreak.